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## **Katie Anita Purswell, MPA**

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Katie Purswell is currently the Director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation for The American Legion. Her responsibilities include: to serve as the resident expert on Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and Memorial Affairs; prepare and deliver Congressional testimony on behalf of the national organization; assist in the development of legislation or policy on all subjects pertaining to VBA, VHA, and Memorial Affairs on behalf of The American Legion; supervise and oversee all programs within VBA, VHA and Memorial Affairs; ensure The American Legion's benefits, health care, and memorial affair positions remain contemporary; maintains liaison with appropriate officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs and other Federal Agencies with an interest and impact on veterans' issues; manages the VA&R mandates and resolution portfolio; serves as consultant on VA&R issues to American Legion Auxiliary.

Katie is a member of American Legion Post #247 in Poolesville, Maryland, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of American (IAVA), and a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She has recently been selected to serve on the Sexual Assault and Harassment Prevention Work group for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Katie, medically retired from the U.S. Army as a Sergeant First Class where she served as a master all-source intelligence analyst deploying to both Iraq and Afghanistan. Her personal decorations include Joint Service Achievement Medal; three Army Commendation Medals; and Army Achievement Medal.

Katie is a member of American Legion; graduate of Cochise College with an AA in Intelligence Studies, Indiana University where she earned her BS in Speech and Hearing Sciences, and Clemson University with a Master's in Public Administration. She currently resides in Poolesville, MD, with her husband and two children.